

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:

a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a spaced second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend from the back support to define form a carrier cavity, and wherein the first leg and the second leg have terminating ends opposite the back support that define a gap that is part of the carrier cavity;

an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

the main body of the insert having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise defined by side walls therethrough for receiving an elongated light source, the insert having a slit or opening along a length of the insert that extends from an outer surface of the insert and into the light receiving cavity or lumen to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving cavity or lumen, the slit or opening facing the carrier cavity when the insert is installed in the seat position, and wherein the side walls of the light receiving cavity or lumen are configured to retain the elongated light source relative to the insert even when the insert is separated from the carrier.

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the interference fit of the first leg of the insert and the first leg of the carrier, and the interference fit of the second leg of the insert and the second leg of the carrier, provide[[s]] a force that urges ~~helps keep~~ the slit or opening towards ~~in~~ a closed position.
4. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein ~~the end of the first leg of the carrier and the end of the second leg of the carrier define a slot, and at least a majority of the elongated light source is situated inside the carrier cavity when the insert is installed in the seat position~~ main body of the insert is sized larger than the slot so that when the insert is installed into the seat position, the main body becomes at least partially deformed.
5. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the carrier includes one or more insert stops that extend from the back support of the carrier into the carrier cavity.
6. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the carrier includes a first insert stop and a second insert stop both extending from the back support of the

carrier and into the carrier cavity, wherein the first insert stop and the second insert stop each include an angled surface.

7. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 6 wherein at least part of the main body of the insert is adapted to engage the angled surface of the first insert stop and the angle surface of the second insert stop if a sufficiently large force is exerted on the insert toward the carrier.

8. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the main body of the insert includes a transparent or semi-transparent material that extends from the light receiving cavity or lumen to an outside surface of the main body on a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly when the insert is installed in the seat position.

9. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 8 wherein the main body also includes a non-transparent or substantially non-transparent material on the viewing side of the rub-rail assembly when the insert is installed in the seat position.

10. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the maximum dimension of the light receiving cavity or lumen is less than 20 mm.

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

11. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 1 wherein the maximum dimension of the light receiving cavity or lumen is less than 10 mm.

12. (currently amended) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:
a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend from the back support to form a cavity, the carrier further having a light receiving cavity or lumen defined by side walls for receiving an elongated light source; and
an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to engage the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted engage the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed ~~into~~ in a seat position with the carrier;
wherein the side walls of the light receiving cavity or lumen are configured to retain the elongated light source in place relative to the carrier even when the insert is separated from the carrier.

13. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 12 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen of the carrier is positioned behind the insert when the insert is installed ~~into~~ in the seat position with the carrier.

14. (currently amended) The rub-rail assembly of claim 13 wherein the insert includes at least one region that is transparent or semi-transparent that is adapted to allow at least

some of the light emitted by a light source to escape ~~therethrough~~ to a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly.

15. (currently amended) An elongated bumper, comprising:
an elongated light source having a round or substantially round cross-section;
an elongated bumper member having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending
lengthwise ~~therethrough~~ for receiving an the elongated light source; and
the light receiving cavity or lumen defined by a cavity or lumen wall that, in cross-
section, has a round or substantially round shape that spans having at least 180 degrees and is
sized so that the elongated light source fills or substantially fills the light receiving cavity or
lumen as defined by the cavity or lumen wall ~~a maximum dimension of 30 mm or less.~~

16. (currently amended) The elongated bumper of claim 15, further comprising a slit
or opening traversing along a length of the elongated bumper member and extending from an
outer surface of the elongated bumper member and into the light receiving cavity or lumen to
facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving
cavity or lumen ~~wherein the lumen has a maximum dimension of 20 mm or less.~~

17. (currently amended) The elongated bumper of claim 15, wherein the light
receiving cavity or lumen has a maximum dimension of 10 mm or less.

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

18-20. (cancel)

21. (new) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:

a carrier having a back support, a first leg and a spaced second leg, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend out from the back support to form a carrier cavity;

an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the first leg of the carrier and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

the insert having a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise for receiving an elongated light source, the insert further having an at least partially transparent material that extends from the light receiving cavity or lumen to an outer surface of the insert on a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly, and further having a substantially non-transparent material also on the viewing side of the rub-rail assembly.

22. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the first leg and the second leg of the insert are formed from a substantially non-transparent material.

23. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the at least partially transparent

material and the substantially non-transparent material are configured such that light is only allowed to escape from the elongated light source on the viewing side of the rub-rail assembly along an arc with a center in the light receiving cavity or lumen that spans less than 180 degrees.

24. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 21 wherein the elongated light source has a size and shape, and wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is defined by a cavity or lumen wall that, in cross-section, has a shape and size to accommodate the size and shape of the elongated light source and so that the elongated light source fills or substantially fills the light receiving cavity or lumen as defined by the cavity or lumen wall.

25. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 24 further comprising a slit or opening extending into the light receiving cavity or lumen to facilitate insertion and/or extraction of the elongated light source into/from the light receiving cavity or lumen.

26. (new) A rub-rail assembly, comprising:
a carrier having a back support, a first leg with an inside surface and an outside surface, and a spaced second leg with an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the first leg and the second leg extend out from the back support to form a carrier cavity therebetween, the inside surface of the first leg and the inside surface of the second leg defining at least part of the carrier cavity;

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

an insert having a main body, a first leg and a second leg, the first leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the inside surface of the first leg of the carrier, and the second leg adapted to provide an interference fit with the inside surface of the second leg of the carrier, with the main body engaging at least part of the outside surface of the first leg and at least part of the outside surface of the second leg of the carrier when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

a light receiving cavity or lumen extending lengthwise for receiving an elongated light source, with an at least partially transparent material extending from the light receiving cavity or lumen to an outer surface on a viewing side of the rub-rail assembly.

27. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided in the main body of the insert.

28. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided in the carrier.

29. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein the light receiving cavity or lumen is provided between the carrier and the insert.

30. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 26 wherein:

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

the first leg of the insert includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion extending perpendicular or substantially perpendicular to the back support, and the second portion extending parallel or substantially parallel to the back support when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier; and

the second leg of the insert includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion extending perpendicular or substantially perpendicular to the back support, and the second portion extending parallel or substantially parallel to the back support, when the insert is installed in a seat position with the carrier.

31. (new) The rub-rail assembly of claim 30 wherein the carrier includes at least one thickened portion that extends from the back support of the carrier and between at least part of the first leg and at least part of the second leg of the insert.

32. (new) A light adapted for use with a boat, the light comprising:
elongated light source means for emitting light rays; and
an elongated bumper means for carrying the elongated light source means and for providing a bumper function for a boat during normal use of the boat, said elongated bumper means including means for allowing light rays from the elongated light source means to be emitted along at least a majority of the length of the elongated bumper means, the elongated bumper means further having a primary bumper surface that faces away from the boat, wherein

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Office Action dated November 27, 2006

the elongated light source means is situated between the primary bumper surface and the boat such that the primary bumper surface helps shield and protect the elongated light source means during normal use of the boat.